

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 A method for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a
2 host window, the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;
4 and
5 (b) utilizing a diagram to indicate the position and the orientation of the content
6 pane within the host window.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the utilizing step (b) further includes the step of
2 (b1) utilizing the diagram to indicate the orientation of the content pane within the host
3 window.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of (c) docking the content
2 pane in accordance with the description.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which
2 illustrates how the content pane will be docked in the host window.

1 5. The method of claim 4 in which the content pane within the thumbnail diagram
2 that is to be docked is identified by a particular color.

1 6. The method of claim 5 in which a pointing device is dragged to indicate the
2 thumbnail diagram.

1 7. The method of claim 6 in which, when the content pane is undockable, an
2 outline of the content pane is shown.

1 8. A system for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a
2 host window, the system comprising:
3 a description providing a position of the content pane within a host window; and
4 a diagram utilized to indicate the position of the content pane within the host window.

1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the utilizing step means further includes means
2 for utilizing the diagram to indicate the orientation of the content pane within the host window.

1 10. The system of claim 8 comprising a docking of the content pane in accordance
2 with the description.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which
2 illustrates how the content pane will be docked in the host window.

1 12. The system of claim 11 in which the content pane within the thumbnail diagram
2 that is to be docked is identified by a particular color.

1 13. The system of claim 12 in which a pointing device is dragged to indicate the
2 thumbnail diagram.

1 14. The system of claim 13 in which when the content pane is undockable an
2 outline of the content pane is shown.

1 15. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for providing
2 feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a host window, the program instructions
3 comprising the steps for:

4 (a) providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;
5 and

6 (b) utilizing a diagram to indicate the position of the content pane within the host
7 window.

1 16. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the utilizing step (b)
2 further includes the step of (b1) utilizing the diagram to indicate the orientation of the content
3 pane within the host window.

1 17. The computer readable medium of claim 15 which includes program
2 instructions for (c) docking the content pane in accordance with the description.

1 18. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail
2 diagram which illustrates the content pane along with at least one other content pane and at

3 least one splitter bar within the host window.

1 19. The computer readable medium of claim 18 in which the content pane within
2 the thumbnail diagram that is to be docked is identified by a particular color.

1 20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which a pointing device is
2 dragged to indicate the thumbnail diagram.

1 21. The computer readable medium of claim 20 in which when the content pane is
2 undockable an outline of the content pane is shown.

1 22. A method for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a
2 host window, the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;
4 and

5 (b) utilizing a diagram to indicate the position of the content pane within the host
6 window, wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane
7 will be docked in the host window, the content pane being identified by a particular color; and

8 (c) docking the content pane in accordance with the description.

1 23. A system for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a
2 host window, the system comprising:

3 a description providing a position of the content pane within a host window; and

4 a diagram utilized to indicate the position of the content pane within the host window,
5 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane will be
6 docked in the host window, the content pane being identified by a particular color; and
7 the content pane docked in accordance with the description.

1 24. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for providing
2 feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a host window, the method comprising the
3 steps of:

- 4 (a) providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;
5 and
6 (b) utilizing a diagram to indicate the position of the content pane within the host
7 window, wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane
8 will be docked in the host window, the content pane being identified by a particular color; and
9 (c) docking the content pane in accordance with the description.